

ESSEX. ff.

Ad generalem Sessionem Pacis Domini Regis tent. apud Chelmsford in Comitatu predicto die Iovis prox. post Festum S. Michaelis Arch. anno regni Regis IACOBI Anglie &c. vicesimo primo 1623. coram Roberto Comiti warwic, Willm. Dom. Petre, Willm. Dom. Maynard, Francisco Barrington Mil. & Baronetto, Harbottello Grimston Mil. & Bar. Willm. Masham Bar. Iohanni Deane mil. Thoma Cheek mil. Willm. Herris mil. Henrico Maxey mil. Nicolas Coote mil. Thoma Wiseman mil. Willm. Fitch mil. Arthuro Herris mil. Thoma Gardiner mil. Edw. Boeler mil. Henrico Mildmay de Graces mil. Roberto Clerke mil. Andrea Paschall mil. Roberto Quarles mil. Willm. Towse Seruien. ad Legem, Roberto Willan sacred Theologie Doctori, Thoma Fanshaw, Henrico Gent, Iohanni Wright, Briano Tuke, Francisco Bernard, Iohanni Tanfield, Arthuro Iaruis, Roberto Wiseman, Iohanni Littury, Roberio Sandford A. wigeris, & alijs Socijs suis Inſticiarijs dicti Dom. Regis ad Pacem in Com. predicto conſervand. nec non ad diuersa felonias transgress. & alia malefacta in eodem Com. audiend. & terminand assign. &c.



IS Maiesties Justices of Peace of this Countie at this Quarter Sessions assembled, taking into their conſideration the continuance of certaine Orders and directions conceiued in this Court, to be obſerved the last yere by all Constables and their Officers through this whole Countie, concerning the execution of the Lawes and Statutes against Rogues and Vagabonds, and also concerning the monethly meetings agreed to be held by the Justices of Peace in their ſeuerall Diuiſions, for the better examination and finding out of the negleſt and careleſnes of ſuch Officers, and the reformation of thofe and other abuses and disorders in the Country, which cannot ſo conueniently be done and performed at the generall Assemblies of the whole body of the Countie. And finding now that the Conſtables and other Officers who are to puniſh and conuey ſuch Rogues, Vagabonds, and common Beggers as are apprehended, doe (for the moft part) paſſe them away without any puniſhment at all, neuer queſtioneſſing the counterſet Pasports, but on the contrary doe relieve and conuey them by giuing them money at euer Parish they are to paſſe through, by meaneſ whereof they begin to increase againe. Therefore it is now agreed, thought fit and ordered by this Court, that from henceforth there ſhalbe a meeting of the Justices of Peace (or the moſe part of them) in every ſeuerall Diuiſion or Hundred of this Countie once at the leaſt beſtweene every generall Quarter Sessions, (which may be caſt a ſix weekeſ Sessions) at which meetings all high and petie Conſtables, Outſeers of the poore, Surveyors of high-wayes, and other Officers and Inhabitants thereunto appointed, ſhall giue their attendance vpon the ſaid Justices from time to time, to be charged and examined, and to giue an account of the carefull, reall, and exact performance of their ſeuerall offices and duties in generall, and more eſpecially touching and conuerning theſe Articles hereunder following.

First. That choice being made of diſcreet and ſufficient persons (and not of the meaner ſort, as of late is too frequent) to be ſworne Conſtables, that the Lawes and Statutes againſt Rogues, Vagabonds, and other dangerous wandring persons be more carefully put in execution by the ſaid Conſtables; For the better effecting whereof it is thought fit that in euer Parish a Whippingſtocke be preſently provided at the charge of the Parish: and that watchings, wardings, and priuate ſearches be kept and made in euer Parish once or twice euerie weeke at the leaſt, for apprehending of all Rogues, Vagabonds, or common Beggers, and that all Inhabitants alſo doe ſtay eueri ſuch Rogue or common Begger that ſhall come to their doores or within their ſight, vpon paine of x ſ. for every default, and to deliuer him ouer into the cuſtodie of the Conſtables, according to the Statute in that caſe provided.

Secondly, That all ſuch Rogues and Vagabonds ſo apprehended, be immeadiately carried before ſome Justice of Peace of this Countie next to the place of their apprehenſion, by him to be ſent to the House of correction, (if he ſhall think it expedient) where the allowance of three pence a mile ſhall be made to the Conſtable for the bringing of eueri ſuch Rogue, or otherwise to be ſeverely whipped and conueyed by Paſport and able guide, and in no other maner, from one Parish to another the moſt diſtrect way to the place of their birth or laſt habitation, as the caſe ſhall require: and that no Conſtable in ſending of any ſuch Rogue or common Begger ſhall giue him any money, but onely ſo muſt ſuſteneſce in bread and drinke as may ſuſſice nature and no more; And further for the diſcovery of many false Pasports, (which are now moſt common) it is thought fit that no perſon pretendeſſing himſelte to be a Souldier or Mariner, ſhall be ſuffered to trauell or paſſe (though he haue a Paſport) vñleſſe the ſame Paſport be firſt allowed and ſubſcribed with the hand of ſome Justice of Peace of this Countie, limiting a certaine time for his or their paſſage and trauell through this Countie.

Thirdly, Whereas it hath beene diſcouered that diuers Cripplers and other diſeased impotent perſons, haue uſed to trauell out of one Countie into another vpon vaine and idle pretents of getting reliefe from their friends far remote, or at the place of their birth, and thereupon proceſſed Pasports, by vertue whereof they haue beene carried in Carts or on Horse-baſe, and exacted money of eueri Conſtable for their meaneſ and ſpeedy trauell ouer moſt parts of England at the Countries charge: which Paſport is againſt the Law, and ought to be made but in caſe where either the parties are puniſhed according to the Statute againſt Rogues, or oþerwise where any ſuch diſeased and impotent people trauell for ſuccour and reliefe to the Bath, or one of the Hopsitalls: in which caſe their charges in trauell ought to be borne by themſelues, or by the inhabitants of the Parish from whence they come, and that the Law inſorceth not the Countrey to conuey any perſon whatſoever which ſhould be chargeable for the prouision of Cart or Horse, and payment of moncy. It is therefore ordered by this Court, that the Conſtables ſhall not hereafter receiue or conuey any ſuch Cripple, diſeased or impotent man or woman ſo brought vnto them as aforesaid, and that if in caſe the bringer of any ſuch Cripple or impotent perſon ſhall attempt to leaue them vpon any Parish, (as the maner often is) that then ſuch bringer be preſently carried before ſome Justice of Peace of this Countie next to that place, to be proceeded againſt as a diſturbor of the execution, as the aforesaid Statutes made againſt Rogues and Vagabonds.

Fourthly, Whereas commandement is giuen to the Cleare of the Peace at this preſent Quarter Sessions, to ſend vnto the Justices of Peace in every Diuiſion a Transcript of the names and dwelling places of all ſuch perſons as are or ſhall be indited or preſented, either for keeping a Ale-house without Lycenes, or for ſuffering ill rule or diſorder in Inne or Ale-house, or againſt any common Drunkard or Ale-houſe haunter, to be bound ouer by the ſaid Justices to appeare at the generall Sessions of the Peace then next inſuing: It is agreed that all ſuch perſons whose names ſhall be ſo ſent as aforesaid, ſhall be conuented at theſe meetings, and there to be bound ouer accordingly. And it is further ordered by this Court, that the Justices of Peace at theſe meetings ſhall ſtrictly examine the Conſtables, Outſeers of the poore, Surveyors of high-wayes, and all other Officers and perſons whom it concerneſſ, touching all diſorders in Innes and Ale-houſes, the ſetting on worke and releeuing of their poore, the amendment of high-wayes, and cropping of trees, and ſcouring of ditches which doe annoy the ſame: and alſo what Loyterers, Masterlesſe perſons, and others refuſing to ſerue or worke for reaſonable wages: what Shooters in Hand-guns, Tracers of Hares, and deſtroyers of the games of Pheſants and Partridgide: and what other perſons uſing deceit in Trade or Manufacture tending to the deſtruction or wronging of any of his Maiesties Subiects, there be in any Parish or Hamblet within their ſeuerall lymits.

Lastly, It is ordered by this Court that every perſon and perſons transgreſſing or offendinſ in any Article or thing aboue mentioned, ſhall be warned by the Conſtables of every Parish and Hamblet to appeare perſonally before the Justices of Peace at theſe meetings, where the ſaid Conſtable, together with the Outſeers of the poore, Surveyors of the high-wayes, Headborouges, & others whom it concerneſſ, ſhall make preſentment in writing of the names and dwelling places of all the ſaid offendes at their perils: and that the Justices of Peace in every ſeuerall Diuiſion or Hundred, doe make certificat in writing of their doings at eueri generall Quarter Sessions following.

Per Curiam.

Concordat cum Originali, & examinatur per
E. Eldred Clericuſ Pacis, Comprobavit.